

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 776

By Vaughn

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Suzanne Burow for  
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is proper that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize those talented and determined individuals who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of excellence in all their endeavors and, in doing so, have served as an inspiration to those around them; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Suzanne Burow is one such individual who embodies the finest qualities for which Tennessee stands: patriotism, faith in God, high ideals and moral values, a strong work ethic, neighborliness, compassion, reverence for our state's history, and a record of volunteerism rarely equaled; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne Burow has worked diligently and passionately for twenty-five years on behalf of Exchange Place, a frontier farm complex on the National Register of Historic Places; her knowledge and abilities are well suited for restoring, maintaining, and promoting the cluster of buildings with surrounding woods and meadows; and

WHEREAS, beginning with a gift of 7 ½ acres with pre-Civil War structures, Mrs. Burow has worked to increase Exchange Place's holdings to sixty-two acres through fundraising campaigns and grant writing for the non-profit organization; and

WHEREAS, a volunteer of the highest order, Suzanne Burow has moved and reconstructed several log buildings on site, re-shingled roofs, framed in windows, chinked and daubed log walls, constructed sheds, built an outdoor brick oven, dug postholes and installed fencing, hauled materials, built a ramp for the handicapped, restored a log barn, and dug out several feet of offal from a second barn to make it useable for public events; and

WHEREAS, this dedicated public servant has achieved certification as a high lift machinery operator in order to heft logs and roofing materials into position; and

WHEREAS, through exacting research and adherence to authenticity, Mrs. Burow educates visitors in farming practices of the mid-1800s at Exchange Place; she successfully applied to have the Kingsport city site rezoned agricultural so that it could be stocked with heirloom breeds of animals and plants; and

WHEREAS, she has traveled extensively to gather specimens of sheep, pigs, horses, cattle, and chickens, which she feeds and doctors, as well as shearing the sheep using traditional methods; the animals figure prominently in a school program she created through which about 2,000 children each year learn about livestock, candle dipping, hoe-cake baking, and overall farm life during the 1850s; and

WHEREAS, in addition to collaborating on an Exchange Place publication, titled *Lydia's Gift*, a children's book illustrating the "sheep-to-shawl" process, Mrs. Burow participates in a hijacking and country wedding attraction that draws bus tours from New York to Texas; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of a small town physician, Suzanne Burow grew up in Hillsville, Virginia, and graduated from Duke University; she later moved with her husband and young family to Kingsport, where she immediately became involved in various causes in her adopted community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her extensive involvement in Exchange Place, Mrs. Burow has also lent her many talents and energies to cataloging the cemeteries in Sullivan County and Carroll County, Virginia, with the proceeds from the published records benefiting the counties' respective historical societies; and

WHEREAS, a charter member of Preston Hills Presbyterian Church, Suzanne Burow has taken part in every aspect of church life, serving several terms as elder; one of her self-appointed tasks is to collect and distribute Christmas gifts and food to needy families; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Burow epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne Burow is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Suzanne Burow for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as we salute her many contributions to the preservation of history and the teaching of farm life through her work with Exchange Place.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.